

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Kindly amend Claims 9-11 in the following manner.*

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9. (Amended) An integral capillary microcuvette comprising a body member provided with a cavity, the cavity being defined by two opposing inner surfaces of the body member and a portion of the cavity defining a measuring zone within the body member, the cavity having an inner peripheral zone at which is located a channel, the channel having opposite ends that communicate with the exterior of the microcuvette, the channel [having] being sized relative to the measuring zone such that the channel has a higher capillary force than the measuring zone, said body member having an outer peripheral edge provided with a sample inlet through which a sample is drawn into the body member, the sample inlet being in communication with the channel and the channel being in communication with the measuring zone.

10. (Amended) A microcuvette according to claim 9, wherein said channel is defined by an inner end wall of said inner peripheral zone and two substantially planar portions of the inner surfaces of said body member.

11. (Amended) A microcuvette according to claim 10, wherein said two substantially planar [surfaces] portions are parallel and the distance between the two substantially planar [surfaces] portions is less than the distance between portions of the inner surfaces of the body member at said measuring zone.

*Kindly add the following new Claims ~~16~~-18.*

30 -- ~~16~~. An integral capillary microcuvette comprising a body member having an outer peripheral edge, the body member being provided with a cavity that communicates with the outer peripheral edge of the body member, the cavity being defined by two opposing inner surfaces of the body member, a portion of the cavity defining a measuring zone within the body member, the cavity having an inner peripheral zone at which is located a channel, the channel extending along the entire inner peripheral zone of the cavity, the channel being sized relative to the measuring zone such that the channel has a higher capillary force than the measuring zone to prevent air bubbles from becoming trapped in the measuring zone, the outer peripheral edge of the body member being provided with a sample inlet through which a sample is drawn into the body member, the sample inlet being in communication with the channel and the channel being in communication with the measuring zone.

~~15~~ 15. A microcuvette according to claim ~~16~~, wherein said channel is defined by an inner end wall at said inner peripheral zone and two substantially planar portions of the inner surfaces of said body member.

~~18~~ 18. A microcuvette according to claim ~~17~~, wherein said two substantially planar portions are parallel and the distance between the two substantially planar portions is less than the distance between portions of the inner surfaces of the body member at said measuring zone. --